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Garrulous Officials

The tendency of a lot of people to pop off when they get before a television microphone apparently also afflicts officials in highly sensitive government posts.

Allen Dulles, head of the central intelligence agency, appeared recently on a TV program in which he freely discussed the relative positions of the United States and Russia in respect to the development of intercontinental missiles.

What seemed strange to Senators Clinton B. Anderson of New Mexico and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, and rightly so, is that Dulles had declined to discuss the same subject before the joint atomic energy committee because it was too secret to be talked about in public.

Either Dulles assumed the program on which he appeared has a zero Hooper rating or he contracted a case of garrulity which seems to afflict some people upon being merely exposed to a microphone.

Or, perhaps, he is like a former California governor who prefaced a radio remark by saying:

Off the record